



March 14, 2017

Governor Gary R. Herbert  
Utah State Capitol Complex  
350 North State Street, Suite 200  
PO Box 142220  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2220

RE: HB 441 "Housing and Homeless Reform Initiative Amendments"

Dear Governor Herbert,

West Valley City requests your veto on HB 441 based on the following concerns:

- HB 441 creates an unfunded mandate to support homeless services that West Valley City cannot sustain
- HB 441 removes all local control and decision making away from West Valley City.
- HB 441 is clearly being implemented in a concerning manner, as evidenced by the Salt Lake County Mayor's office selecting three of five potential sites in West Valley City.

We understand that homelessness is a universal and complex issue because we have been dealing with it successfully for three decades. West Valley City has proven its commitment to real solutions not just for our own residents, but for residents throughout the entire valley. Our work is unmatched by other cities in regards to providing resources and support to the disadvantaged. We have over 33,000 affordable housing units. We have housing units for the chronically homeless. We have housing units for disadvantaged seniors and for those with disabilities. We are proud of the significant work being done in our city for those people that would otherwise be homeless. We want to continue to be part of the solution.

Our immediate concern is our local residents and businesses. West Valley City cannot provide the level of service that a homeless shelter requires. We stand in support of our sister cities that already bear the significant burden of emergency shelters, and again affirm our commitment to be part of the solution. However, HB 441 is not the solution.

West Valley City Council unanimously supports this letter.

Sincerely,

Ron Bigelow  
Mayor